



Attorney Docket No. 042390.P9927

Patent

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

Gavin Stark et al.

Serial No. 09/751,936

Filed: December 28, 2000

For: MAC BUS INTERFACE

Examiner: Not Yet Assigned

Art Unit: 2122

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, DC 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

Prior to examination of the above referenced application, the Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to enter the following amendments and to consider the following remarks.

## PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

### In the Claims

2. The MAC bus interface of claim 1, wherein the first set of handshake signals corresponding to the data out bus comprise:

a request signal sent from the system side block to the network side block that is used to request a transfer of data to the network side block;

a transfer ready signal from the network side block to the system side block that is asserted by the network side block to inform the system side block that the network side block is ready to receive data; and

a hold signal issued sent from the system side block to the network side block that may be asserted to control a timing of the transfer of data.

3. The MAC bus interface of claim 1, wherein the second set of handshake signals corresponding to the out message bus comprise:

a message request signal from the network side block to the system side block that is used to request a transfer of the message data from the network side block to the system side block; and

a message transfer ready signal asserted by the system side block to inform the network side block that the message data may be received by the system side block.

4. The MAC bus interface of claim 1, wherein the third set of handshake signals corresponding to the data in bus comprise:

a request signal sent from the network side block to the system side block that is used to request a transfer of data to the system side block;

a transfer ready signal sent from the system side block to the network side block that is asserted by the system side block to inform the network side block that the system side block is ready to receive data; and

a hold signal issued from the network side block to the system side block that may be asserted to control a timing of the transfer of data.

### IN THE SPECIFICATION

On page 3, line 9, please replace "diagram an" with --diagram of an--.

On page 7, line 10, please replace "requirements, for the network" with --requirements for the network--.

On page 16, line 2, please replace "multiplexor" with --multiplexors--.

On page 17, line 14, please replace "FIGURES 11, 12 and 19" with --FIGURES 12, 13 and 19--.

On page 19, line 6, please replace "Date" with --Data--.

On page 19, line 22, please replace "fro" with --from--.

On page 21, line 16, please replace "state" with --states--.

On page 22, line 16, please replace "state" with --states--.

On page 23, lines 5-6, please replace "at a point 158 if leaving it asserted would delay the last xft" with --at a point 158 to permit the last transfer of the packet to occur--.

On page 23, line 22, please replace "cycle (164), which causes xfr to be low" to --cycle (166), and causes xfr to be low (168)--.

On page 24, line 1, please replace "during the second timing cycle and xfrA to be low (170) during a third timing cycle" with --during the second timing cycle. The assertion of holdA at 168 causes xfrA to be low (170) during a third timing cycle--.

### IN THE DRAWING FIGURES

Amendment to FIGURES 11 and 14 are included herein. Please see the attached clean drawing sheets and marked-up drawing sheets for FIGURES 11 and 14.

### REMARKS

The amendments to the specification, drawing Figures and claims 2, 3, and 4 are being submitted herewith to cure informalities discovered by the Applicants' Attorney upon further review of the present application. These amendments are being submitted though the present preliminary amendment in an earnest effort to advance this case to issue without delay. The Applicants respectfully request consideration of the present application as amended.

*Charge Deposit Account*

Please charge our Deposit Account No. 02-2666 for any additional fee(s) that may be due in this matter, and please credit the same deposit account for any overpayment.

Respectfully submitted,

BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN

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Version of Amended Claims with Markings

2. The MAC bus interface of claim 1, wherein the first set of handshake signals corresponding to the data out bus comprise:

a request signal sent from the system side block to the network side block that is used to request a transfer of data to the network side block;

a transfer ready signal from the network side block to the system side block that is asserted by the network side block to inform the system side block that the network side block [is ready to receive data] has accepted a portion of data presented by the system side block for transfer; and

a hold signal issued sent from the system side block to the network side block that may be asserted to control a timing of the transfer of data.

3. The MAC bus interface of claim 1, wherein the second set of handshake signals corresponding to the out message bus comprise:

a message request signal from the network side block to the system side block that is used to request a transfer of the message data from the network side block to the system side block; and

a message transfer ready signal asserted by the system side block to inform the network side block that the [message data may be received by the system side block] system side block has accepted a portion of data presented by the network side block for transfer.

4. The MAC bus interface of claim 1, wherein the third set of handshake signals corresponding to the data in bus comprise:

a request signal sent from the network side block to the system side block that is used to request a transfer of data to the system side block;

a transfer ready signal sent from the system side block to the network side block that is asserted by the system side block to inform the network side block that the system side block [is ready to receive data] has accepted a portion of data presented by the network side block for transfer; and

a hold signal issued from the network side block to the system side block that may be asserted to control a timing of the transfer of data.